

The Times-Dispatch.

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THE
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THE TIMES-DISPATCH, Richmond, Va.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1905.

It Is Time to Act.

The people of Richmond are to be com-
mended for their conservatism. In the
eyes of some of our neighbors we may
be a little slow, but we are never rash.
We adopt no measures until they have
been carefully considered. It is that sort
of conservatism that gives character and
stability to a people. Never has Rich-
mond's conservatism shown to better ad-
vantage than in dealing with the ques-
tion of expansion. Long ago we outgrew
our dimensions and expansion seemed
imperative, but we have waited until we
were sure of the situation, until we
could discuss and investigate and thresh
out and arrive at intelligent conclusion.

It is a tribute to the patriotism and
wisdom of the Richmond people that so
many of our citizens have given this sub-
ject their careful attention. We have had
meeting after meeting, and speech after
speech; we have had discussions in halls,
on the street corners, through the public
press and in the Council chamber. We
have given the most patient and indus-
trious investigation and at last the Com-
mittee on Charter, Ordinance and Re-
form is ready to report. The report will
be submitted to the Council on Monday
night and will be further discussed before
that body.

The Times-Dispatch believes that the
report of the committee should be adopt-
ed. We are not disposed to force our
views upon the Council, and we are cer-
tainly not disposed to bring any undue
influence to bear upon that body. But
we hope that citizens who have fully
made up their minds one way or the
other, will not fail to express their views
to members of the Council, and let them
know what public sentiment is. If those
who oppose the lines finally deter-
mined by the committee do not enter a
protest and if no general protest is
made the Council will very naturally and
properly decide that the people are satis-
fied with the report and are willing that
it shall be adopted. If there are those
who wish to speak other way, now is the
time. They may speak to members of
the Council in private or they may go to
the meeting on Monday night and then
and there let their views be known.

But, however that may be, the time has
now come for action. The question has
been discussed up and down, and we can
see no need for further delay. We hope,
therefore, that the Council will act. Let
it be remembered, too, that the action of
the Council is by no means final. The
Council will simply make a motion in
court. The question will then be heard in
court and evidence will be taken on both
sides and on all sides. Each and every
interest will be represented by counsel and
the court will finally render a decision
in accordance with what seems to be rea-
sonably fair and equitable to all interests.

In the meantime the discussion has only
served to clear the public mind and to
accustom the need for Greater Rich-
mond. With every meeting and with
every thought given to this subject, the
strength of the cause has grown. What
opposition there is to Greater Richmond
is certainly not backed by any responsible
or important part of this community.
There is in some sections a little timidity
as to taxes and in other sections a good
deal of political panic concerning city
offices, if the lines are to be widened so
as to let in the vigorous voters of Fair-
mount, Chestnut Hill and Barton Heights.
But the citizen who only looks at the
growth of his city in health and business
and all those departments of civic life
which make for a great community is not
disturbed by such non-essentials. His af-
fairs is only to see that his city gets
what it deserves and his opportunity is
right now to make his wishes respect-
fully, but forcibly, known to those to
whom the administration of our city af-
fairs has been given. The vast majority
of the good citizens of this city are in
favor of going forward.

We Submit the Case.

We regret that the News Leader has
been unable to repress its ribilities. The
Times-Dispatch may seem funny to our
contemporary, but the subject under dis-
cussion, of single or double primary, is
not funny. It is a serious question; a
question involving the interests of this
community, and it should be treated in a
serious way, and not in the jocular
 vein which our contemporary likes so
well. We have no disposition to ban-

jokes with the News Leader. Our pur-
pose in discussing the subject is to get
at the merits of the case and to aid the
City Committee, as far as we may, in
adopting that course which will be in
the best interest of local government.
We are not concerned about the candi-
dates, either local or State, so much as
we are concerned about Richmond.

The News Leader says that, according
to public report, the committee has al-
ready decided on its action. If that were
true, we should have nothing more to
say on the subject; but, in point of fact,
the committee will not decide until its
next meeting is held, and we again ex-
press the hope that we have produced
argument sufficient to convince the com-
mittee, if it needed to be convinced,
that there should be two primaries in-
stead of one; that our local contest should
be determined in a local primary.

So far the News Leader has said nothing
to change our view, and we submit the
case without further argument.

The Church and Mr. Rockefeller.

A good friend of ours, whose opinion
we highly esteem, because he is not only
a wise man, but a just man, thinks that
we were a little hard on Mr. Rockefeller
in yesterday's paper. We said that the
methods of the Standard Oil Company,
of which Mr. Rockefeller is the head,
had been exposed and condemned, and
that when he offered to contribute \$100,000
to the Congregational Church for mis-
sionary purposes, an opportunity was
afforded to give these methods a rebuke,
and that we believed that such a rebuke
would have been worth far more to the
cause of religion than the money which
Mr. Rockefeller had contributed.

Our friend thinks that we were wrong
in condemning Mr. Rockefeller unheard.
He believes from what he has heard that
Mr. Rockefeller is himself a pious man.
We have also heard from a distin-
guished preacher, who is very intimate
with Mr. Rockefeller, and who frequently
visits him in his home, that he is a good
man and trying to do good. We are not
disposed to condemn any man unheard,
and we are willing to concede, as our
friend points out, that the Standard Oil
Company has greatly reduced the price of
oil and given the people a better article
at a lower price. But the Standard
Oil Company has not been condemned un-
heard. It has been condemned time and
again by those who have looked into its
affairs, and it is notorious that its meth-
ods have been cruel and heartless, to say
the least. These methods, according to
common report, and according to the
popular verdict, which is rarely wrong,
are contrary in all respects to the teach-
ings of the Bible and the teachings of
the church, and the church would be
untrue to itself if it did not condemn
such methods always and rebuke them
whenever opportunity serves. If the
Standard Oil Company has not been
condemned, and we hold that unless the
church is satisfied that the charges
against it are untrue, and that there is
no ground for the popular verdict, it
should not accept money from the head
of that organization to carry on its work.

The Times-Dispatch is liberal in all
its views, but however liberal we may
be, we cannot think that the cause of
religion is helped, but rather injured,
when the church, by any act, seems to
give countenance to ways and means of
piling up wealth which its own code
denounces.

The Negro Vote.

Editor Carter Glass, of the Lynchburg
News, has collected data from all the
counties showing that of the 147,000
negroes who were qualified voters under
the old regime only 21,000 have registered
throughout the State, and not half of
these 21,000 have qualified for voting by
paying their poll taxes. Of the 301,000
white men able to vote under the old
regime 275,000 have registered.

The new Constitution has done its
work well. It has eliminated the negro
vote, taken the negro question out of
politics and removed every pretext for
dishonest elections. Nor has the negro
been wronged. All who paid as much as
a dollar a year in taxes, and all others
who could by their answers show that
they had sufficient knowledge of the prin-
ciples of government to qualify them to
exercise the right of franchise—whites
and blacks—are now upon precisely the
same footing in the matter of registration
and the educational test will apply with-
out discrimination.

When all the difficulties are considered,
it seems almost wonderful that a plan
of suffrage so satisfactory in its opera-
tion should have been devised. It is a
high tribute to the wisdom and patri-
otism of the Constitutional Convention.

The Democratic Primaries.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—Will you please answer the follow-
ing questions through your query column?
1. Under the party law or plan of hold-
ing primaries, who will be entitled to
vote in the approaching primary for sen-
ator and State officers?
2. Does the fact of a voter's participat-
ing in the primary carry with it an honor
pledge to support the nominee of the pri-
mary?
3. Should those known to be Republi-
cans be permitted to participate when
there is no assurance that they would
support the nominee?
4. Should a man, who, though a Demo-
crat, but who probably declares that he
would not support the ticket if cer-
tain parties were the nominees, but would
support the Republican ticket instead,
be permitted to participate in the primary?

DEMOCRAT.
In reply to the first question, the Demo-
cratic plan adopted by the State Con-
vention at Richmond on June 10, 1901, pro-
vides that "All white Democrats who
are, or will be, legal voters at the elec-
tion, at which the General Assembly is
to be chosen, which is to elect a United
States senator, shall be entitled to vote
at any primary election held to nominate
a party senatorial candidate; and at all
other primary elections hereinafter pro-
vided for, all white Democrats who are,
or will be, legal voters at the general
election next following the primary at
which they offer to vote shall be entitled
to vote at such primary."

In answer to the other question, the
primary plan provides that "All persons
participating in any of said elections shall
thereby be considered as binding them-

selves to vote for the nominee or nomi-
nees in the ensuing general election."

It is very plain from this that only
Democrats are expected to participate in
the Democratic primaries and every Demo-
crat who does so participate undoubtedly
pledges himself to support the nominee or
nominees of that primary "in the ensuing
general election."

Death of Mr. Purves.

We are distressed to hear of the death
of Mr. Alexander Purves, of the Hampton
Normal. He was modest and retiring, and
never pushed himself into public notice,
but he was a man of unusual intellec-
tual abilities and moral force. He was a
student of financial and economic ques-
tions and contributed many interesting
and instructive papers on these topics to
current literature. His work at Hampton
was a sacrifice for humanity, but it was
a willing sacrifice and he gave cheer-
fully. He gave even his valuable life to
a cause which appealed to his heart, but
the sacrifice was not in vain. He told
for the uplift of men and women of two
disadvantaged races, who were committed
to his care. In his gentle way, he spoke
words of encouragement to them and gave
friendly advice and timely assistance, but
better than all, he furnished in himself
a model of Christian manhood. The in-
fluence of such a life is abiding.

Mr. Carnegie denies that he said it was
disgraceful to die rich. Possibly Mr. Car-
negie is finding that it will be impossible
to give away his fortune, and that in
spite of himself, he will die a millionaire.
Richmond ought to feel ashamed of her-
self.

As a matter of fact, as we pointed out
yesterday, the law-makers of Virginia
take a different view. They ordain that
State and county, or city, officials shall
be elected at the same election on the
same day. The News Leader.

But the party organization does not so
ordain. It leaves the question of single
or double primaries entirely to the dis-
cretion of the local committees.
Suppose we were to nominate all city
officers this time—Mayor, councilmen, and
all the rest—would the News Leader still
be in favor of having a single primary?

Since his arrest Gessien Rousseau has
shown a tendency to claim a leading part
in most every dynamiting plot that is
mentioned to him, but has so far refrain-
ed from asserting that he was the or-
ganizer of the Gunpowder Plot.

The statement of the globe-trotting New
Yorker that he was captured by pygmies
in Africa, escaping only through the love
of an abbreviated pygmy maiden, will
strike some as not reading like a nar-
rative sober.

April is here and so are the peach
and apple blossoms, and now if April
will just keep warm enough to head off
the late frosts all other short comings will
be forgotten.

Easter hats will carry smaller flowers
this year, so it is said, but there is no
intimation that there will be any diminu-
tion in the account rendered to the man
who pays the freight.

March came in lamb like, remained
like a lamb for thirty-one days and went
out as gentle as any lamb that was ever
seen. Possibly March turned the lion
act over to April.

The novelty of a senatorial campaign
extending beyond the confines of the
Capitol Square is going to make things
mightily lively in old Virginia this sum-
mer.

And so the President is too busy ar-
ranging for his western-southern trip to
listen to the tale of woe that comes up
from the colored contingent of the Yazoo
Delta.

Spring has given us a pop call, and
we suspect she is only waiting for an
invitation to take off her bonnet and
spend quite a while with us.

The czar of all the Russias still closes
to fight it out to the bitter end. Close
readers of war news are under the im-
pression that he has reached it already.

The congressional invasion of the Phil-
ippines this summer will bring about
that lasting peace that could in no other
way be obtained.

Oyama seems to have gotten between
Kuropatkin and St. Petersburg and so
the general's return has been postponed
indefinitely.

There are many rumors to the effect
that a large number of wedding bells
have been appointed to ring out the
Lenten season.

The kind of moral suasion that Castro
needs is the kind that goes out from
the port holes of two or three warships
at close range.

Admiral Nebogatoff may change the
significance of his name to some extent
when he sees Admiral Togo approach-
ing.

Now don't pick up anything you see
lying on the street to-day. It may be
lying in more ways than one.

All foot's day and you will have to
consult the census to determine how
many are strictly in it.

The oyster industry has but one more
"it" to go upon this season, and that is
a limited one.

"Second Napoleon" Oyama differs from
the first in that he keeps going towards
Moscow.

The Easter hat will be no joke, but a
sad reality—to the man who has to pay
for it.

Haven't heard a word from your Uncle
Grover's duck hunt. 'Twas not ever true.

More bombs are being thrown in War-
saw than base-balls in Richmond.

It appears that Mrs. Cassie will have
a long, quiet time to think it all over.

The one thing that draws out the
talk of peace is the din of arms.

Admiral Nebogatoff will necessarily be
a little slow in reaching the front.

Mrs. Reader is something of a dreamer
also.

THE LATEST BOOKS UNDER BRIEF REVIEW.

A PRINCE TO ORDER. By Charles
Stokes. New York, 327; \$1.50. John
Lane, New York.

A very cleverly written story, in which
an American hero, Carey Grey, of New
York, is subjected to hypnotic influences,
trapped and nearly killed by a conspiracy
to place him on the throne of the
Crown Prince, Maximilian.

Unfortunately for the author's success
of the story, which is a failure, the
author, who is a German, is seized
with mortal illness before Mr. Grey,
of New York, has been completely
transformed into the Crown Prince,
Maximilian. The author, who is a
student of financial and economic ques-
tions and contributed many interesting
and instructive papers on these topics to
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a little slow in reaching the front.

Mrs. Reader is something of a dreamer
also.

THE SMOKE-EATERS. By Harvey J.
O'Higgins. New York, 327; \$1.50. The
Century Co., New York.

The heroes of this book are the city
firemen, whose training has taught them,
in their own careers, to breathe smoke
and spit black buttons. In the
literal sense of the word, perhaps no
man is so thoroughly qualified as the
hero of this story, for these knights of
the hook and ladder, who, in the true
words of the author, "accept the call of
the hour and the hour of their every day."
Naturally, the ten stories in this volume
deal with episodes selected for their ex-
citement and dramatic interest, and it
would doubtless be a mistake to assume
that the fireman's life is simply a suc-
cession of these hair-breadth escapes. We
have no knowledge, personally, as to the
mortality among firemen, but it presum-
ably is not so great as the information
conveys. Nevertheless, it is obviously true
that firemen are always expected to be ready
to risk their lives and that they are con-
stantly and cheerfully doing it.

The story of the fireman is a heroic
and appealing one, and it is meet, and
throughout it should have been written
Mr. O'Higgins, who, as a reporter on a
metropolitan daily, became familiar with
the routine life of a certain fire crew, is
well qualified to tell the story. The tales
are not merely worth while for the infor-
mation they shed upon an interesting
subject, but they are decidedly good
merely as stories. A big fire is usually
the setting for each episode in the col-
lection, upon which the author spreads
some complication of the human sort in
the characters or attitudes of his people.
The stories, describing the heroism of
a squad of firemen, mostly probationers,
from the sixth story of a burning
building, by means of a slender living
chain thrown out along a three-inch
ledge, is the sort to make any healthy
masculine reader sit up and hold his
breath.

THE PROBATIONER. By Herman
Whitaker. Pages, 229; \$1.50. Har-
per and Brothers, New York. Bell Book
and Stationery Company, Richmond.

The Canadian Northwest is the scene of
Mr. Whitaker's book, a dozen of tales
a spot where you get "seven white
months, a yard of snow on the level and
a temperature of thirty below zero."
His people are like his scenes, rugged,
forceful, unadorned and primitive, and
his plots are grim and without the leaven
of much humor. He is great originally
in construction or telling, the stories
make, by their simplicity and elemental-
ism, a strong appeal to the reader. The
underlying idea of the first tale, not
to speak of the details of its working out,
is about as old as the hills. "The Prob-
ationer" is an Eastern-bred minister, who
is called on to preach to a wild north-
western pastorate. Just naturally the boys
and girls of the place, who are a way-
ward lot, are not so great original in
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